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STOPPING ST. LOUIS' PORCH PIRATES

CAUGHT ON CAMERA
Surveillance images may show the theft, but few suspects are arrested

REDUCING RISK
Limiting opportunity is a surer way to ward off package thieves

BY ERIN HEFFERNAN
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Cat food. Construction paper. A Halloween costume for a dog. Even a religious garment handmade for a bishop.

They've all been stolen in greater St. Louis this year by the same common neighborhood scourge: the package thief.

These so-called porch pirates often make their moves in midday when people are at work and the front-porch pickings are good.

It's difficult to track just how many packages are stolen each year in the area, but from 2015 through July of this year, the U.S. Postal Inspector received 4,823 complaints of stolen packages in the city and St. Louis County combined.

That probably captures only a sliver of the total thefts because many stolen packages are never reported, authorities say. Still, it's clear package theft has become one of the most common

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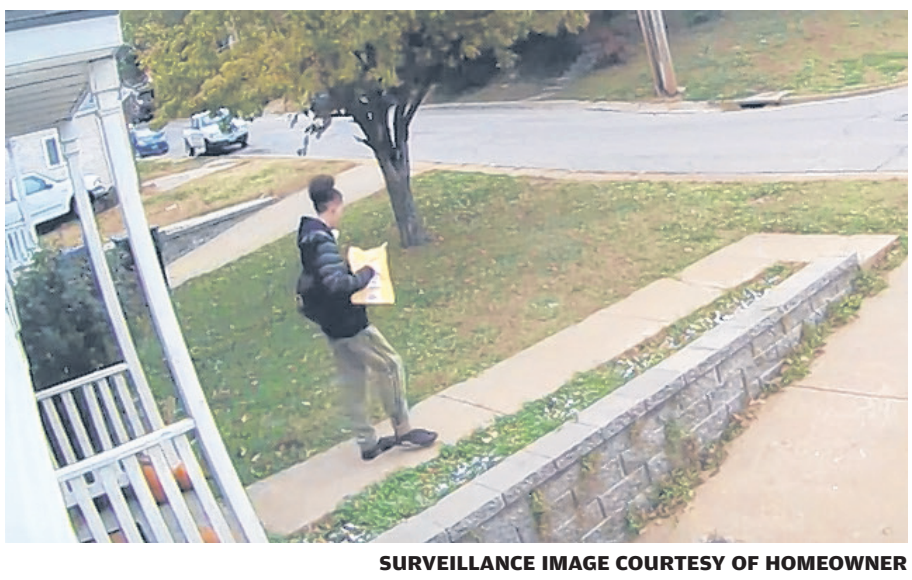

SURVEILLANCE IMAGE COURTESY OF HOMEOWNER
A surveillance image shows a teen or man carrying off a package from a home after delivering a pro-Proposition P flyer in November 2017, according to the homeowner. The proposition was to establish a sales tax to pay for raises for police.

PHOTO COURTESY OF STEVE MCCLANAHAN
Steve McClanahan captured this photo of a man who took a package containing a $140 car mat off his porch at his home in Tower Grove South using a home security camera.

ILLINOIS GOVERNOR'S RACE

Election or auction?

2018 contest is shaping up as multi-millionaire versus billionaire, with self-funding record on the horizon

FUNDRAISING AND SPENDING

Gov. Bruce Rauner (Republican)

Hotel heir J.B. Pritzker (Democrat)

	Rauner	Pritzker
Self-donations:	**$57.2 million**	**$35.2 million**
Total raised:	**$78.2 million**	**$35.2 million**
Total spent:	**$32.3 million**	**$21.0 million**

Source: Illinois State Board of Elections records from Jan. 1, 2016, to Nov. 22, 2017. (Pritzker showed no funds until 2017.)

Spending figures since Oct. 1, 2017, are not yet available.

BY KEVIN McDERMOTT • St. Louis Post-Dispatch

America today has its first billionaire president, a millionaire majority in Congress and a campaign system in which a $174,000-a-year congressional seat often costs millions or even tens of millions of dollars to win.

And in Illinois, the stakes are about to get even higher.

The Land of Lincoln is on a path to what could become the most expensive governor's race in U.S. history next year, and it isn't because big special interests and mega-donors are lining up. It's because two of the leading candidates are among the wealthiest people in America, and

See ILLINOIS • Page A7

'Clean Missouri' plan faces challenges

Number of ethics provisions may stall ballot measure

BY KURT ERICKSON
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

JEFFERSON CITY • A proposal to overhaul how Missouri draws its legislative boundaries seeks to make the state one of the first in the nation to bring an end to partisan gerrymandering.

But the so-called "Clean Missouri" ballot measure being backed by labor unions, Planned Parenthood and scores of small donors from throughout the country could face a number of obstacles, according to redistricting experts surveyed by the Post-Dispatch.

Key among the potential problems is the ballot measure itself, which contains a number of ethics-related provisions that have been largely blocked by lawmakers. They include new, lower limits on campaign contributions, a ban on lobbyist gift-giving and a two-year cooling off period for lawmakers wanting to become

See AMENDMENT • Page A11

FUN FIRST, THEN FEAST

Family and friends old and new gather downtown for Thanksgiving Day parade

PHOTO BY JON GITCHOFF
Julianna Hill, 4, of Tammy's Tumbling and Dance Center participates in the 33rd Thanksgiving Day parade in downtown St. Louis on Thursday.

BY SAMANTHA LISS • St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Before indulging in traditional Thanksgiving Day fare, many area residents bundled up for the 33rd annual Thanksgiving Day parade.

The event featured numerous high school marching bands and floats, and attracted many first-time parade watchers, including Cindy and Mark Hayes, who are also new to St. Louis.

The two were expertly positioned in the warm sun and shielded from the cold breeze on Thursday morning along the parade route near Market and 7th streets. Temperatures hovered around the mid-40s throughout much of the parade.

"I think it's great. I love marching bands," said Cindy, a traveling nurse who recently

See PARADE • Page A11

Homicide tally in city is poised to top 2016, '15

Thanksgiving Day fatalities bring total to 188 — so far

BY ASHLEY JOST AND CHRISTINE BYERS
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

ST. LOUIS • With 38 days left in the year, St. Louis appears to have reached an unhappy milestone: matching the number of homicides recorded in both 2016 and in 2015.

Three homicides on Thanksgiving Day brought the city's total to 188. St. Louis Police say the homicide total was 171 on this day last year. Homicide detectives were investigating three separate murders Thursday.

After 11 a.m., a man in his 20s was found dead after he was shot multiple times in the 2600 block of Burd Avenue.

Less than a mile away, a man was found dead with trauma to the head just before 5 p.m.

See HOMICIDES • Page A10

POLICE SHOOTING • Man who pointed gun at officers is fatally shot; boy, 14, is wounded. **A10**

TODAY
67°/45°
MOSTLY SUNNY
TOMORROW
59°/37°
SUNNY
WEATHER
B12

Carry-out

POST-DISPATCH WEATHERBIRD ®

Flynn may cooperate

His legal team cuts ties with White House

INSIDE • A5

Gun-decorating business booming • C1
Messenger: Bereavement ignored • A2
Kirkwood wins Turkey Day game • B10
Ortiz: Rethinking Hall of Fame vote • B1

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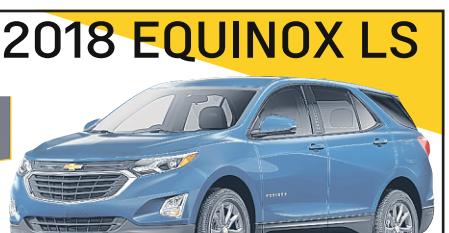

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